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outlined in these books, showing primarily the commercial cause for the separation from Spain, and the need and inevitable growth of closer commercial relations between the United States and Cuba.

E. FOGG.

Municipal Functions: A Study of the Development, Scope, and Tendency of Municipal Socialism. By MILO RAY MALTBYE, PH.D. With a complete index. New York: Reform Club Committee on Municipal Administration, 52 William street, 1898. Pp. 223.

THE work before us makes a complete number (Vol. II, No. 4) of *Municipal Affairs*. The Reform Club has added to the obligations under which it placed all students of municipal government about two years ago by the publication of *A Bibliography of Municipal Administrations and City Conditions*. In the present work the editor of *Municipal Affairs*, who is also the secretary of the Committee on Municipal Administration of this club, set before himself an arduous but modest task. What that task is may best be described in his own words in the prefatory note:

It is therefore attempted below *first*, briefly to discuss the historic development of municipal functions; *second*, more fully to consider the scope of present municipal activities; and *third*, to analyze the various forces which determine the extent of municipal socialism, to discover present tendencies, and to forecast future developments. No attempt has been made to discuss the proper scope of municipal functions. The present study is confined to stating what the municipality *does*, leaving to others the task of drawing conclusions as to what it *ought to do*, and of applying to present problems the facts impartially stated therein.

The above lengthy extract shows clearly not only what the author attempted to do, but what he has accomplished with great success and discrimination. His impartiality in dealing with so large a mass of material from all over the world, and with a period reaching from remote antiquity to the present, is all the more remarkable when it is recalled that he is the editor of a journal devoted to the discussion of current municipal questions.

The author was greatly assisted in gathering material for this study by the United States Department of State which kindly used the consular service for that purpose.

This work will prove equally indispensable with the *Bibliography* to all seekers after truth on municipal topics. For it is the only work of its kind, and is so well indexed as to enable anyone to find out at a glance just what state the municipal government of any country has reached. It does for the whole world, although necessarily with infinitely less detail, what Professor Wambaugh did so well for a typical New England city in his address before the American Bar Association a few years ago.

J. H. G.

Économie politique scientifique. Définitions et méthodes. Par CH. ARENDT, Ingénieur. Paris, L. Larose, 1899. 8vo. pp. xii + 130.

THOUGH this is but a brief text-book intended primarily for use in schools of engineering, the writer does not omit to preface it with the customary diagnosis of the ills which retard the development of economic science. The opinions which he expresses are not novel. Like Comte, he laments the fact that economists have wasted time in futile controversies arising from the lack of precise terminology and exact definitions. But, worse than this, says M. Arendt, the science has been made to assume a metaphysical character, because its devotees, instead of confining their efforts to the investigation of "absolute truth," have arrayed themselves in the opposing schools of individualism and socialism, the one making society the means and the individual the end, the other reversing this relation. This evil would be removed if economists would limit their vision strictly to the observation of causal relations between the phenomena with which they deal. As M. Arendt sententiously remarks, "a scientist seeking truth can have no school but that of truth." Similarly the *controverses stériles* can be avoided by framing more accurate definitions; and it is to this task that the writer particularly addresses himself. His point of view and the value of his contributions are fairly indicated by the following specimen. Economics is defined as "the analysis of the phenomena of the production, exchange and consumption of wealth, through knowledge of the natural laws governing these phenomena, and the explanation of their causes" (p. 14). As an instance of these natural laws the "tendency" of social organisms "toward a natural harmony" is cited (p. 9).